no objection to the setting up of small extension centres of existing IITs outside their main campuses, which are devoted to continuing education, diploma courses, finishing schools, incubation programmes, etc.

NASSCOM report on employability of engineers

781. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the NASSCOM report which reveals that most of our engineering graduates are unemployable because of lack of skill sets required by the growing ESO/BPO assignments, now being outsourced to the country;

(b) if so, whether, as an immediate measure, Government are planning finishing schools for engineers; and

(c) the long-term planning of Government to enhance the quality of technical education so that the bourgeoning demands of skilled technical personnel could be met adequately?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Finishing Schools on pilot basis were conducted by IIT Roorkee and six National Institutes of Technology at Surathkal, Durgapur, Warangal, Jaipur, Calicut and Trichy during the summer months of May-July, 2007 for a period of 8-10weeks.

(c) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is taking steps to ensure that the enrolment to engineering streams touch the figure of about 1 million by 2010-11 from the current level of about 0.50 million in order to alleviate the gap between demand and supply of IT manpower. As a long term measure to enhance the employability of engineering graduates, the AICTE is taking steps to update the syllabus of engineering courses. The Ministry of HRD has also taken up a major initiative to establish 20 new Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs) in the country during the 11th Five Year Plan.

Setting up of new polytechnics

782. MS.PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a scheme for setting up of more polytechnics to address the shortage of polytechnics in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to help Orissa in setting up new polytechnics to meet the demand of fast industrialization of this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have initiated a scheme for providing one time financial assistance for establishment of New Polytechnics in certain Specially Identified Districts in the country where there is no polytechnic at present. Nine such districts have been identified in Orissa.

Students in rural and urban areas

783. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOIJRCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of students in rural and urban areas in the country who are getting vocational education, university education and technical education;

(b) whether the above percentages in developing countries are more than that in India; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to improve the scenario?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Annual enrolment figures of students getting vocational, university and technical education are not collected for rural and urban areas separately.

(c) The University Grants Commission implements various schemes of development assistance to eligible colleges and universities for improving quality of higher education. These schemes aim, *inter-alia*, at improving curriculum, strengthening infrastructure, orientation and in-service training of teachers, and encouraging research.

The scheme of vocationalisation of secondary education at +2 level is being implemented to provide financial assistance to States/UTs to set up administrative structure, area vocational surveys, preparation of curriculum, text-books, work book curriculum guides, training manual, teacher training programmes, strengthening technical support system for research and development, training and evaluation etc. It also provides financial assistance to NGOs and voluntary organizations for implementation of specific innovative projects for conducting short-term courses.

Financial aid to primary education

†784. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are avoiding to provide adequate financial aid to primary education despite imposing two per cent surcharge;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the tug of war between the Central and State Governments, the chances of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan hanging in mid-air have increased;

(c) if so, the efforts being made by Government in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.